

**I. AMENDMENTS****Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1 – 3 (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A pair of oligonucleotides comprising a sense oligonucleotide and an antisense oligonucleotide, ~~being said pair of oligonucleotides~~ capable of directing PCR amplification resulting in a polynucleotide fragment of a polynucleotide sequence encoding a protein selected from the group consisting a) SEQ ID NO:2 and b) SEQ ID NO:2 having a phenylalanine residue instead of a tyrosine residue at position 246, said polynucleotide fragment being part of said polynucleotide sequence that encodes said protein.

5. (Previously Presented) The pair of oligonucleotides of claim 4, wherein said polynucleotide sequence is as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

6. (Previously Presented) The pair of oligonucleotides of claim 4, wherein said pair of oligonucleotides is set forth by SEQ ID NOs: 6 and 7.

7. (Previously Presented) The pair of oligonucleotides of claim 4, wherein at least one of said sense oligonucleotide and said antisense oligonucleotide is designed having an endonuclease cleavage site, so as to enable cloning of a resulting PCR product generated therewith into a vector.

8. (Previously Presented) The pair of oligonucleotides of claim 4, wherein at least one of said sense oligonucleotide and said antisense oligonucleotide is labeled with a detectable moiety.

9. (Previously Presented) The pair of oligonucleotides of claim 8, wherein said detectable moiety is selected from the group consisting of a chromogenic moiety, a fluorogenic moiety, a light-emitting moiety and a radioactive moiety.

10-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) The pair of oligonucleotides of claim 4, wherein said polynucleotide sequence is as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, provided that T replaces A at position 799.

24. (Previously Presented) The pair of oligonucleotides of claim 4, wherein said protein is SEQ ID NO:2.

25. (Previously Presented) The pair of oligonucleotides of claim 4, wherein said protein is SEQ ID NO:2 having a phenylalanine residue instead of a tyrosine residue at position 246.

26-28. (Canceled)